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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

98-206

Mr. Dale Hatfield
Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hatfield:

I am writing to you in regards to the Petition for Rulemaking filed by Skybridge on July 3, 1997, and a letter (see Enclosure) recently received from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. The petition requests the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to implement Non-Geostationary Fixed-Satellite Service (NGSO FSS) in specified frequency bands, including the 13.75-14.0 and 17.3-17.7 GHz bands.

NTIA fully supports the position of Department of Defense (see enclosed letter). In the band 13.75-14.0 GHz, the NGSO FSS must operate in accordance with the FCC Report and Order released September 26, 1996 (ET Docket No. 96-20, FCC 96-377) and will have to accept interference from radiolocation stations. Additionally, in my May 21, 1998 letter to Mr. Richard Smith, I expressed concerns about potential interference to Government systems in the band 13.75-13.8 GHz and provided the National Aeronautics and Space Administration assessment detailing the potential unacceptable interference Skybridge would cause to their TDRSS space-to-space link.

In the band 17.3-17.7 GHz, we agreed to protect broadcasting-satellite service (BSS) feeder links operating in accordance with US271. However, our present operations are not compatible with the NGSO FSS and I request that the FCC not authorize any NGSO FSS operations in the 17.3-17.7 GHz band. In addition, we cannot agree with any change or waiver to the existing National Table of Frequency Allocations or to the Commission's rules that would enable NGSO FSS operations to be authorized to use this spectrum.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please call me at (202) 482-1850 or Edward Davison at (202) 482-1164.

Sincerely,

William T. Hatch
Acting Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management

cc: Ms. Regina Keeney

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COMMAND, CONTROL,
COMMUNICATIONS, AND
INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000



October 20, 1998

OCT 28 1998

Mr. William T. Hatch
Acting Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

98-206

Dear Mr. Hatch:

We have reviewed the Petition for Rulemaking of Sky Bridge L.L.C. and the amendment thereto concerning the matter of Amendment of Parts 2.106 band 25.202 of the Commission's Rules to permit operation of NGSO FSS systems in a number of frequency bands including 13.75 - 14.0 GHz and 17.3 to 17.8 GHz. These two bands are critical to current Department of Defense operations and national security.

Government radiolocation stations operate in the band 13.75 - 14.0 GHz on a primary basis. These radars operate at high power in both scanning and tracking modes. The National and International Tables of Frequency Allocations contain footnotes that facilitate sharing between GSO FSS earth stations and Government operations. The ITU-R studies that validated these footnotes were based on GSO FSS and not NGSO FSS. Interference from these radiolocation stations to NGSO FSS systems is probable. If NGSO FSS systems were allocated in this band, their earth stations would be required to operate within the same constraints as GSO FSS networks and they would have to accept interference from stations in the radiolocation service.

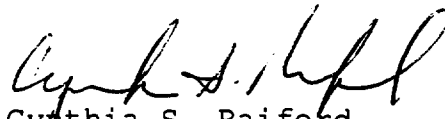
Footnote US271 of the U.S. Table of Allocations limits the use of the band 17.3 to 17.8 GHz by the fixed-satellite service (Earth-to space) to feeder links for the broadcasting satellite service. The U.S. Table of Allocations also provides for Government radiolocation services to use the band 17.3 - 17.7 GHz on a secondary basis. Studies have shown that sharing between the radars and GSO FSS (Earth-to- space) networks is feasible by limiting the radiolocation station emissions toward the geostationary orbit. Sharing does not appear to be feasible between radiolocation stations and NGSO FSS systems.



Additionally, we anticipate continued operation of radiolocation stations in the band 17.3 - 17.7 GHz even after the date of April 1, 2007 when the broad-casting satellite service is authorized to use the band in Region 2. Accordingly, in order to protect the U.S. government's considerable investment in existing services in this band, we cannot agree with any changes to the existing U.S. Allocation Table that would enable the NGSO FSS to use this spectrum.

Your immediate support concerning this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia S. Raiford', written in a cursive style.

Cynthia S. Raiford
Director, Spectrum Management